

The Evening World

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BLONDE OR BRUNETTE?

The learned men who have been taking part in the discussions before the Academy of Science spent one afternoon trying to make up their minds whether the future population of the United States is to be blonde or brunette. A majority opinion inclined to the brunet side.

The arguments were not based on preference or taste, but solely on the scientific tendencies of climate, environment and hereditary impulses.

The original population of the United States was decidedly blonde. The surviving Indians are almost without exception black-haired and swarthy in complexion. It has been claimed that some pure-blooded Indians have red hair, but no instance has been known of a blonde Indian, and the red hairs have been attributed to intermarriage of Indian women with red-headed trappers and frontiersmen.

Arguing from the Indians comes the assertion that the wide variations in temperature and the conditions of brilliant sunshine and occasional great humidity tend to produce complexions of such color as will be least sensitive. A blonde sunburns, tans and freckles many times more readily than a brunet. Exposure to sun and rain will change flaxen hair to a sandy or brindle color.

Both the Esquimaux of the extreme North and all tropical peoples have swarthy complexions. The ancestry of the pure blonde races can be traced to Northern Central Europe and the lands bordering on the Baltic and North Seas. The North Germans, the Scandinavians and the English of Saxon descent have flaxen hair and fair complexions. Red hair is attributed to the intermixing of Danish blood. The varying shades of red and brown hair among people of this inheritance depend upon the degree of Danish mixture.

The Celts originally came from the south of Europe, and are of swarthy descent. The black-haired Irishman has more of the Basque blood. The red-haired Irishman shows a strain of Norse blood. The population of the northern seacoast provinces of Spain and of Ireland are much akin, except that the Spanish have no Saxon blood and the Norse mixture is stronger in Ireland.

Any one who has noted the population changes in New York City during the last twenty years must have observed the greater proportion of brunettes and the diminishing height and increased swarthiness. A walk of an hour through the lower east side may not disclose any man over six feet tall, and not one in ten of the children or parents is a pure blonde. The weight of the population has not diminished with the height, and the number of stout men and fat women is yearly increasing.

The average height of the people in those southeastern parts of Europe from which present immigration is coming in greatest numbers is several inches less than the height of North Germans and Swedes. The change through immigration is bound to have a modifying effect upon the whole population of the United States.

Change in occupation will also exercise a powerful influence. People engaged in sedentary occupations do not become large-boned and tall. Often they become fat. The use of machinery on the farms will tend to diminish the height and increase the girth of farmhands.

The scientists' statement of the tendency toward brunettes is probably accurate. The use of peroxide of hydrogen, bleaching soda and other preparations will not stay this tendency. Children cannot inherit bleached hair or artificial complexions. Just as no way has been found permanently to take out the kinks from a full-blooded negro's hair, so there is no way permanently to make similar minor changes in such manner as to devalue anybody.

Besides, no woman should dye her hair or enamel her face, anyway. It is bad for her health and the improvement to her looks is imaginary. Also in the end it necessitates wigs.

Letters from the People.

A Staten Islander's Story.

To the Editor of The Evening World:  
If you want a pleasant trip set down to South Ferry in time for the 4:45 P.M. boat to Staten Island. Boats run every fifteen minutes during rush hours according to the time table. Wait overtime for the boat to land and until a much later date for it to leave. Then go for a twenty-minute trip. But don't be surprised if it takes thirty. Then find your way to the Midland trolley upstairs and wait till the car comes in—not more than twenty minutes. Then get as far as the hill at St. George and wait until the conductor puts in a few fuse or sometimes until the power is strong enough to push the car up. Then, if nothing further happens, you will reach your home. But don't game to the time, for if you do you are liable to lose.

STUNG SUBURBANITE.

To the Editor of The Evening World:  
The woman whose income is \$3 a week and has five in family and saves \$5 a year deserves a leather medal, and if I know her address I would send her one made from the sole of the man's shoe who earns \$18 a week and who writes her so much trouble.

MARY DOWNING.

No. 151 South Eighth street, Brooklyn,  
Saying Money on \$18 a Week.

To the Editor of The Evening World:  
I have read of certain people—in Brooklyn not being able to save anything on the husband's wages of \$18 a week. My husband gets the same amount, but out of it there is a \$10 bill put away in the bank every week to save the last, when the rent is due. We pay \$14 a month for four nice

Applies to Cooper Union.

To the Editor of The Evening World:  
Where can I and how should I go about to gain a technical knowledge of mechanical engineering? Would propose to enter at night school or take up a correspondence course. I can only spare a few hours every night in which to study.

A. W. NOLAN.

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The Chorus Girl's Friend Engaged to a Wine Agent.

By Roy L. McCordell.

If you want to see one bright spot, as the boy said, who spilled the ink, come up to the girl, and the chorus girl.

"Our girl is a happy little blonde. Mamma De Branscombe sings like a canary, is up all night like an owl, and eats like an ostrich—playing the bird thing clear across the board."

"And for why?" whisper Amy De Branscombe, engaged to a wine agent.

"Next to hooking a manager with money, who will star you in an all part, having a wine agent jump through the hoops is the next best all a loving heart can hope."

"When we got out with Able Woggiebaum and Louis Zimmerman the other night, and they insisted on another drink, Amy, like a tactful girl, who didn't want to create a scene, tried to drink the wine they ordered. But at the second swallow she burst into tears and said she couldn't bear to think of her fiance in word, thought of action, and in less than a quart of his wine was put on the table she ducked and got her gone."

"Able and Louis only laughed and said 'Oh, very well! But what do they know of a constant heart?'

"Amy's friend takes us out every night, and the way the waiters come hot-foot with quart after quart makes them present but not of our party with envy, and those not in the know ask 'Who is then partly from Pittsburg?'

"Mamma De Branscombe falls into happy reverie, and when in a walking state is almost insulting to the lemon dealers, who say 'What'll you have?' 'I'll take beer.'

"She says she always said Amy would make a happy marriage, but in her wildest dreams she never hoped for this."

"She says when they are married and return from their wedding tour at the Waldorf, Amy and George, that the wine agent, can live with her, if they take swell apartments in one of the big no-family family hotels.

"No dissensions will mar their married bliss, and they should live together for years and years, she says.

"Poor Mamma De Branscombe's marriages were trials not trials marriages, unless the divorce proceeding would make them be called such."

"Big says girls have opportunities for happy marriages nowadays that were denied her, because when she was young testing a hand was not the science it now is."

"At that, one of her husbands would have made her happy, because he was just as genorous as he could be and had the largest liquor store on Sixth avenue."

"But he was his own best customer, and they parted because he went West all of a sudden and she never heard from him again, and the brewer's mortgage stood between her and her dower rights."

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